40,000 ARE STARVING IN CALUMET-COUNTY BOARD TO BE PROBED-MOTHER SINGS AS BABE IS BURIED

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FEAR OF U. S. INVESTIGATION FORCE SETTLEMENT OF BIG STR

Densmore Expects Copper Mine Owners to Agree to Some Form of Mediation-They Don't Want Uncle Sam to Turn on the Light.

Calumet, Mich., Jan. 2.- The first definite step toward a settlement of the strike of the 1,500 copper miners in Upper Michigan was believed to have been made today when it was officially stated that the mining companies have agreed to receive and consider a pian of mediation offered by John R. Densmore, solicitor of the Federal Department of Labor. All previous efforts to have the operators consider a compromise agreement have resulted in failures.

The terms of the proposed agreement have not been announced. Densmore stated today that no public announcement would be made until both factions had finally agreed to the settlement, as he feared premature publicity might ruin his plans.

He confidently predicted that the great labor war would reach its end

by the middle of next week.

A rumor that the peace agreement would include a clause providing for the elimination of the Western Federation of Miners from the copper country was emphatically denied by labor leaders here. It was understood that white the namers would not demand formal recognition of the federation.